



AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

MIDDLESEX COUNTY CHAPTER

NOVEMBER, 2008 NEWSLETTER

Last month, on October 19, our Chapter joined the Newark Metro Chapter in kicking off the International Year of the Organ. At St. Vincent the Martyr Church in Madison, NJ, we were treated to an audio lecture tour through the first 200 years of American organ music. The presenters were Dr. Jeanine Jordan and her husband. Our Chapter group included Brenda Day with three guests, William Kistler, John Stokes, and Walter Baber. The host church was nearly filled to capacity.

Our next Chapter event is just around the corner. No, I don't mean Christmas, I mean our annual members' recital, this one taking place in a new site --

***Members' Recital , on February 22, at 3 PM
Trinity Presbyterian Church, 367 Cranbury Road
East Brunswick, NJ***

The theme of the recital – My favorite Easter prelude/ postlude. Please consider taking part by either performing or listening. If the former, choose your piece early and send its title to us. We can thus avoid duplications.

Workshop Announcement:

HELP! I'M IN F SHARP MINOR AND I CAN'T GET OUT!!

- Have you ever entered the sanctuary for the Prelude and see twice the congregation you expected on the Sunday after Christmas, and think "OMG! That 2 minute offertory I planned will never cover the THREE minutes the ushers will need to collect all that money! HELP!!!
- Ever faced with the prospect of getting 40 processing choir members into the choir loft in the course of a 2-line, 3-verse processional hymn?
- And speaking of offertories, how DOES one get to G Major (or ANY key) from Q Flat Phrygian?
- How does one fill time while alters are being incensed, elements being distributed, etc.?

These and other organist-related issues will be discussed in an informal discussion to be led by former dean Chris Deibert, and current sub-dean Bill Kistler on **APRIL 20, 2009 at**

***Wesley United Methodist Church
5303 Woodbridge Ave, Edison.***

At a Board meeting on October 26, we spent time refining the two Chapter initiatives that were announced in the last Newsletter (October 2008) - the advertising grant and the organ study grant. Here, then, are the full formulations of the two grants -

Grant 1

The Middlesex Chapter is holding a 'Promote the Middlesex Chapter' drawing to win two \$100 prizes at the next Dean's Picnic. In order to be eligible for the prize, a chapter member must include one of the following texts in the performance program in which the organ is performed:

- Congratulations from the members of the Middlesex Chapter of the American Guild of Organists: dedicated to the promotion of organ and choral literature, providing a forum for mutual support, inspiration, education and certification of Guild members. Visit us at WWW.MCAGO.ORG or call: 201-333-6619 for information.
- Middlesex Chapter of the American Guild of Organists: dedicated to the promotion of organ and choral literature, providing a forum for mutual support, inspiration, education and certification of Guild members. Visit us at WWW.MCAGO.ORG or call: 201-333-6619 for information.
- This concert is endorsed by the Middlesex Chapter of the American Guild of Organists: dedicated to the promotion of organ and choral literature, providing a forum for mutual support, inspiration, education and certification of Guild members. Visit us at WWW.MCAGO.ORG or call: 201-333-6619 for information.

Each eligible, unique program brought to the picnic will be entered for a chance to win one of the \$100 prizes; however, a member may not win more than one prize.

Participation in this event requires attendance at the *Dean's Picnic on May 31, to be held on sub-dean Bill Kistler's porch at 43 Carson Ave. , Metuchen.*

Grant 2

The following pages explain this grant. Please consider sponsoring a student.

Lastly, a reminder to the executive board that the next scheduled meeting is on Feb. 10, 2009 (7:30PM) at Bill's home.

We are always eager to hear from you,

The Board: Walter Baber, Dean

Bill Kistler, Sub-dean

Fred Briegs, Treasurer

Mary Frances Howley, Secretary

Members at large: Brenda Day, Chris Deibert, John Stokes, Joe Suchocki

Organ Study Grant

The Executive Board of the Middlesex Chapter American Guild of Organists is pleased to be offering a one-time monetary grant to a deserving young (age 18 or under) piano student who has expressed an interest in learning to play the organ. The grant would be for \$500 to cover the cost of 10 to 15 introductory organ lessons.

As a member in good standing of the Middlesex AGO chapter, you are encouraged to consider sponsoring a student who might meet the above criteria. Included in this mailing is an OSG application form which you may give to a potential candidate. He/she is asked to complete the application and send it to the Dean of the Middlesex Chapter:

Mr. Walter Baber
157 Fairview Ave.
Jersey City, NJ 073060

Applications should be post dated no later than Feb. 1, 2009. Applications will be reviewed by the Executive Board of the Middlesex Chapter prior to selection. A list of recommended organ teachers will be provided to the winner. Selection of the recipient will be made by Feb. 28, 2009.

As sponsor, you are asked to submit a letter of recommendation to the Dean of the Middlesex Chapter. You would also be expected to arrange for an adequate and convenient practice schedule on an organ that meets AGO specifications for the student.

Organ Study Grant

APPLICATION

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home phone no: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address

(if different from above): _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home phone no: _____

How many years have you been studying piano: _____

Current piano teacher's name: _____

Piano teacher's phone number: _____

Name of person who brought this to your attention: _____

His/her phone nbr: _____

On a separate page, please tell us a little about yourself; your school year, activities, favorite music, composer, etc, what other musical instruments you play, why you might be interested in studying organ. Unlike a school essay, there are no length requirements. A page or less is suggested.

When complete, please mail your application to:

Mr. Walter Baber
157 Fairview Ave.
Jersey City, NJ 07306

A list of recommended organ teachers will be provided to the winner

Entry must be postmarked no later than February 1, 2009. Selection will be made by February 28, 2009